

City of Detroit

CITY COUNCIL

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TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS

FROM: Irvin Corley, Jr., Fiscal Analysis Director *ICJ.*
Derrick Headd, Fiscal Staff Analyst *DH*

DATE: October 22, 2008

RE: Belle Isle Zoo and Aquarium

As directed by Councilmember Watson in the Neighborhood And Community Committee meeting of Thursday October 9, the Fiscal Analysis division has obtained the estimated costs to reopen, staff, and operate the Belle Isle Nature Zoo (formerly known as the Belle Isle Nature Center) and Belle Isle Aquarium, less the costs for the zoo animals and aquatic life, which are yet to be determined upon the drafting of this report.

Background

On March 1, 2006, the City entered into an agreement with the Detroit Zoological Society (DZS) to manage the operations of the Detroit Zoological Institute (DZI), which included the Detroit Zoo and the Belle Isle Nature Zoo. The Council took the formal action during its 2008-09 budget deliberations to allocate \$100,000 in order to explore what is required to separate the Nature Center (Belle Isle Nature Zoo) and the Belle Isle Aquarium from the Detroit Zoological Society's operating agreement.

The \$100,000 allocation is currently located in Council appropriation 12727 Belle Isle Facilities. Due to the aforementioned circumstances involving the Belle Isle zoo and aquarium, the current agreement would need to be modified and if able, the Recreation Department would most likely administer the operations of the Belle Isle Zoo and Aquarium. The Council may want the Law Department and RAD to speak on this issue.

Belle Isle Zoo and Aquarium

According to the 2002-03 Redbook, which appears to be the last fiscal year of the full operations of both the zoo and aquarium on Belle Isle, operated with a budget of \$2,054,633, consisting of \$631,898 for the Belle Aisle Aquarium and \$1,422,735 for the Belle Isle Zoo (**attached**). On the personnel side, the Zoo's Belle Isle operation held a total of 22 positions, 8 positions for the aquarium and 14 for Bell Isle's zoo operations (**attached**). Finally, in regard to capital costs, the Recreation Department estimates it will take in excess of \$3 million in capital for both the Belle Isle Zoo and Aquarium to resume operations. As we stated earlier, the costs for aquatic life and zoo animals were not available.

Please contact us if Your Honorable Body requires any additional information.

Attachments

Council Divisions
Auditor General's Office
Alicia Minter, Recreation Department
Pamela Scales, Budget Department
Joe Harris, Finance Department
Londell Thomas, Mayor's Office

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**CITY OF DETROIT
FISCAL 2002/2003 BUDGET**

A44000 Zoological Institute Department

Appropriation Organization	Full-Time Equivalent	Amount
AGENCY APPROPRIATIONS		
General Fund Group		
00171 General Administration		
440010 Zoological Institute Office of the Director	5	582,318
440030 Technology & Info. Services	2	177,068
440040 Human Resources	0	118,664
440060 Sales/Advertising	1	189,476
440070 Public Relations	1	75,244
440080 Business Activities	9	2,058,946
General Administration Appro Total	18	3,201,716
00172 Main Zoo Operations		
440100 Guest Relations	19	772,610
440110 Security	1	281,781
440120 Miniature Railroad	8	364,881
440130 Grounds Maintenance	9	522,804
440140 Horticulture	3	172,602
440150 Buildings	12	1,368,981
440170 Education	4	284,346
440180 WIG	4	323,235
440190 Veterinary Care	6	450,116
440200 Mammals	42	2,079,264
440201 Aquatic Life Support	2	188,050
440210 Herpetology	12	626,076
440220 Birds	13	625,831
440230 Animal Care Administration	2	631,494
Main Zoo Operations Appro Total	137	8,692,071
00175 Belle Isle Activities		
440240 BIA Maintenance	0	76,700
440250 BIA Security	0	30,048
440270 Aquarium	8	525,150
440280 BIZ Guest Relations	2	34,869
440290 BIZ Security	0	226,877
440300 BIZ Maintenance	0	73,542
440310 BIZ Landscape	1	47,308
440320 BIZ Education	1	71,936

**CITY OF DETROIT
FISCAL 2002/2003 BUDGET**

A44000 Zoological Institute Department

Appropriation Organization	Full-Time Equivalent	Amount
AGENCY APPROPRIATIONS		
General Fund Group		
00175 Belle Isle Activities		
440330 BIZ Animal Care	10	968,203
Belle Isle Activities Appro Total	22	2,054,633
General Fund Group Total	177	13,948,420
Capital Projects Fund Group		
00845 1994 Zoo Capital Improvements		
440340 Capital Imp. Bonds	0	2,100,000
1994 Zoo Capital Improvements Appro Total	0	2,100,000
Capital Projects Fund Group Total	0	2,100,000
AGENCY APPROPRIATION TOTAL	177	16,048,420

**CITY OF DETROIT
FISCAL 2002/2003 BUDGET**

Agency A44000 Zoological Institute Department

Fund Group Appropriation Organization Classification	Full-Time Equivalent
FG10 - General Fund Group	
00172 - Main Zoo Operations	
440230 - Animal Care Administration	
Zoological Registrar	1
Animal Care Administration Org Total	2
Main Zoo Operations Appro Total	137
00175 - Belle Isle Activities	
440270 - Aquarium	
Zoo Curator - Fishes	
Aquarist	1
Public Service Supervisor	4
Guest Relations Sprv	1
Guest Relations Assistant	1
Aquarium Org Total	8
440280 - BIZ Guest Relations	
Guest Relations Assistant	
Bldg Attendant A - Spec Svcs	1
BIZ Guest Relations Org Total	2
440310 - BIZ Landscape	
Zoological Landscaper	1
BIZ Landscape Org Total	1
440320 - BIZ Education	
Assoc Zoo Curator - Education	1
BIZ Education Org Total	1
440330 - BIZ Animal Care	
Zoo Curator - Belle Isle Zoo	1
Head Zookeeper - B I Zoo	1
Prin Zookeeper-Belle Isle Zoo	1

**CITY OF DETROIT
FISCAL 2002/2003 BUDGET**

Agency A44000 Zoological Institute Department

Fund Group Appropriation Organization Classification	Full-Time Equivalent
FG10 - General Fund Group	
00175 - Belle Isle Activities	
440330 - BIZ Animal Care	
Senior Zookeeper	
BIZ Animal Care Org Total	7
Belle Isle Activities Appro Total	10
General Fund Group Total	22
AGENCY TOTAL	177
	177